ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—— OF THE ——

14th ANNUAL SESSION

—— OF THE ——

ETOWAH

Baptist Association

—— HELD WITH ——

Macedonia Baptist Church, Oct. 8, 9 and 10, '97

The next session will be held at Bristoe's Creek, beginning Wednesday, before the 4th Sunday in October, 1898.

Attalla, Ala.
The Attalla Mirror Print,
1897.

MINUTES

Of the Fourteenth Annual Session of the Etowah Baptist Association, held with Macedonia Baptist Church, October 8th, 9th and 10th, 1897.

Introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. L. Culbertson; text, Exodus, 33d chapter, 16th verse.

Adjourned until 1:30 p. m

AFTERNOON.

Elder W. L. Culbertson called the Association to order; read 44th Psalm, after which the Association was lead in prayer by G. E. Jones, R. W. Brock acting clerk. Enrolled delegates as follows:

Antioch—W. M. Shaw.

Attalla—Rev. W. L. Culbertson, N. N. Vann, S. D. Monroe and T. L. Swanson.

Bethany—J. W. Gilliland, Austin Lankford and R. W. Brock.

Bristoe's Creek—J. J. Frix and R. E. Borroughs.

Cave Springs—Wm. McClendon.

Center—Rev. B. F. Smith and W. L. Brown.

East Gadsden—Rev. J. R. Trotter and E. M. Keeling.

Fairview—Rev. G. E. Jones, G. H. Bearden, J. P. Maise and J. M. Sitz.

Gadsden—Rev. J. W. Willis, W. T. Murphree, S. J. Carlton, D. P. Goodhue, Geo. D. Motley.

Greenwood—H. B. Hawkins, J. W. Bradley.

Liberty Coosa—Rev. W. Y. Adams. K. S. Steele, W. W. Wester, J. W. Heaton, A. H. Barnes, E. E. Hollingsworth, D. B. Nabors.

Macedonia—J. W. Lawrence and A. B. McKinnon.

Mt. Ararat—F. M. Nabors and Geo. Vaughn.

Mt. Carmel—J. L. Jones, Perry Clayton, Geo. Johnson, R. Duncan, W. T. Gay and M. J. Lloyd.

New Harmony—W. H. Tucker.

Pilgrim's Rest—Rev. J. E. Smith, T J. Sikes, J. T. Breedon, G. C. Jenkins, S R. Vineyard, G H. Myrick and W. P. Archer.

Pleasant Hill—Not represented.

Pleasant Valley—S. G. Gillum.

Union No. 1—J. P. Harbour, O. Q Norton, J. P. Bearden and T. H. Stephens

Union No. 2—M. W. Engle and W. A. Culbertson.

Walnut Grove—J. T. Campbell and J. A. Hurst.

White's Springs—E. P. Little, W. J. Cunningham and J. A. McDaniel.

White's Chapel—T. J. Wofford, Jr.

Dwight City—B. C. Miller.

Appointed: Rev. H. W. Roberts and W. T. Murphree, Tellers.

Election of officers resulted as follows: Rev. W. L. Culbertson, Moderator; R. W. Brock, Clerk, and W. T. Murphree, Treasurer.

Invited visiting brethren to seats.

Called for petitioning letters; one was presented from Dwight City. It was unanimously received and messenger was given the right hand of welcome by the Moderator in behalf of the Association.

Called for correspondents, and received Elder H. W. Roberts from Cherokee Association.

Supplied vacancies on committees as follows:

Foreign Missions—Rev. J. W. Willis.
State Missions—Dr. N. N. Vann.
Temperance—D. P. Goodhue.
Sunday Schools—A. H. Barnes.
Obituaries—O. Q Norton, J. W. Heaton and W. M Shaw.
Digest of Letters and State of Churches—R. W. Brock.

Motion and second that Rev. J. W. Willis preach the Missionary Sermon Sunday at 11 o'clock—carried.

Appointed, the pastor and deacons of Macedonia church together with E. M. Keeiling, Dr. J. A. Hurst, as a committee on devotional exercises.

Appointed the following committee on finance: J. A. McDaniel, J. P. Maise and G. T. Fox.

The following on time and place of nominations: T. L. Swanson, J. W. Gilliland and J. J. Frix.

Committee on Devotional Exercises made the following report:

Rev. J. W. Willis to preach at Hoke's Bluff tomorrow night; Rev. W. L. Culbertson to preach at Turkeytown tomorrow night; Rev. B. F. Smith to preach to the colored people at Mt. Zion (colored) church Sunday at 11 o'clock; Rev. J. E. Smith to preach at Macedonia tomorrow night.

Motion and second that the committees on all three missions report tomorrow at 10 a. m. and all be discussed under the same head.

Motion and second that the Association meet at 9 a. m. and adjourn at 12 for dinner; meet at 1:30 and adjourn ad libitum.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock a. m. tomorrow, with prayer by Rev. G. E. Jones.

SECOND DAY.

After reading 8th Psalm, and prayer by Rev. W. Y. Adams, the Association was called to order by Moderator.

Read and adopted the minutes of previous day.

Appointed standing committees as follows:

Foreign Missions: Rev. J. W. Willis, W. M. Shaw and G. C. Jenkins.
Home Missions: Rev. J. E. Smith, J. W. Gilliland and F. M. Nabors.
State Missions: Rev. W. W. Wester, E. P. Little and E. M. Keeling.
Associational Missions: Rev. G. E Jones, J. W. Heaton and W. M. Slaton.
Sunday Schools: N. N. Vann, A. H. Barnes and W. M. Shaw.
Temperance: Rev. B. F. Smith, J. L. Jones and S. D. Monroe.

Education: D. P. Goodhue, T. L. Swanson and W. P. Clayton.

Digest of Letters and State of Churches: Rev. J. R. Trotter, J. A. Hurst and G. H. Bearden.

Obituaries: O. Q. Norton, J. W. Lawrence and W. A. Culbertson.

Executive Committee: Rev. J. W. Willis, A. H. Barnes, O. Q. Norton, J. T. Campbell, R. H. Yeates, R. T. Moore, together with the officers of the Association.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The elementary education of our children must of necessity be almost entirely obtained in our public schools; and while these by law, must be non-sectarian, we can and should see that every public school teacher is a Christian in fact as well as in name. It is not safe to entrust the mental training of children to the care of teachers, however competent intellectually, whose lives are not in all respects morally correct. Let us see to it that our public school teachers are pious Christian men and women.

For higher education our State Convention maintains Howard College at East Lake and the Judson College at Marion. We unhesitatingly assert that these schools are unsurpassed in this State in their respective spheres, and it is our duty to send our boys and girls to these institutions when possible; not alone because they are our denominational schools, but also because of the superior advantages they afford.

We desire to call attention to the meagre support given by our churches to ministerial education. Only two of our churches report any contribution to this very important denominational enterprise. So far as the church letters inform us, the Etowah Association, representing more than two thousand church members, contributed last year the entire sum of $2.00 to this cause, and during the entire year the board has been sorely pressed for funds. An educated ministry is no longer a luxury. It has become an imperious necessity. The ministry must keep pace with the educational progress of our young people or the church will loose its hold upon them. We are not doing our duty in this regard.

The religious organizations of young people are now attracting much attention, and while there may be some reason to condemn the increasing number of these organizations outside the church, we desire to commend the work being done by the Baptist Young Peoples' Union in our denomination. Its educational value is inestimable, in that our young people are therein trained in religious work, fitting them early in life for positions of responsibility in Christian labor.

W. T. Murphree,
W. T. Gay,
Committee.

The above report was adopted after being discussed by Brothers Murphree, Wester and Willis. After a motion, time was

continued one-half an hour and speeches limited to five minutes. Further discussed by Brothers Hurst, Adams and Motley. A beautiful gavel was presented to the Association by Brother M. J. Lloyd, of Mount Carmel church. The Moderator was requested to accept same with a speech of thanks.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Believing as we do that the mission work is one of the fundamental principles of the Gospel, and as the work began at Jerusalem, so it begins with us in our hearts and in our homes. The home mission work demands and should receive the hearty support of every lover of his country and his God. We desire to call special attention to the following facts concerning the work of the Home Mission Board, which we think sufficient plea for the support of the work:

First—About one eighth of the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention have been established through the work of the Board.

Second—The Board employed last year 411 missionaries; these Baptised 5,617 converts, or an average of 13 1-2 to each missionary.

Third—The receipts last year were $75,927 by collection. We find that for every $13.50 one soul is saved.

Fourth—The average missionary preaches to five congregations and averages two sermons per week. He attends 40 prayer meetings; Baptizes 13 believers and receives 15 by letter.

Fifth—He organizes four Sunday Schools every three years, into which he gathers 160 pupils. He makes 160 visits each year. He constitutes a church every two years, and every three years he builds a house of worship, worth, with lot, $900. He gives away six Bibles and Testaments and 3000 tracts.

Sixth—He costs the denomination $300 per annum, and the house of worship he builds every three years adds to the wealth of the denomination a sum equal to his entire support. So we emphasize the importance of supporting the Home Board.

Respectfully submitted,

W. W. WESTER,
S. J. CARLTON,
W. P. ARCHER,
Committee.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

"The people which sat in darkness have seen a great light, and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up."—Matt., 4th chapter, 16th verse.

The progress of our Master's cause in the uttermost parts of the earth is an abiding inspiration to all the faithful and gives encouragement to others who would enlist in the great work of sending the Gospel into all the world. Only three generations ago every heathen nation was closed against the messengers of God who stood knocking for entrance, but now every heathen door is as wide open as the providence of God can spread it, and now the missionary finds welcome where formally he met persecution and death.

Bishop Thoborn recently said that since he had gone out to India the door of access had been thrown open to 700,000,000 of people, fully half the human race.

The miracle of Pentacost has spread to the regions of darkness, and 360 languages and dialects unite to swell the chorus of God's praise. More than 12,000 foreign missionaries with 60,164 native helpers and 1,251,145 living converts constitutes the working force for Christianity in foreign fields, the successors to the one man who a hundred years ago dared to go alone with all the world ageinst him, Wm. Carey. This is the missionary epoch; the 19th century will be characterized as the century of missions. To Baptists belong the honor of inaugurating this marvelous work; and to Baptists in a large measure are due the rich results that have followed. God has peculiarly blessed our labors and gifts, so that with a smaller investment of men and women we have reaped a far greater harvest proportionally than our brethren of other denominations. In this fact I see God's gracious encouragement to Baptists to put more men and women into the work which he has so signally blessed. In 1877, only twenty years ago, we Southern Baptists had only 16 missionaries and 32 helpers, 48 workers in all, and we gave only $32,276 for foreign mission work. In 1897 we have 190 missionaries and native assistants, 4,324 members, and our gifts aggregate $125,682. When we remember that the number of foreign converts is more than doubled every ten years, we ought to increase our gifts and working force proportionally. For the enhancement of our mission work we need in all our churches more praying for missions, more preaching about missions and more systematic giving to the cause of missions. To this end we urge every church in the Association to hold at least once a month a missionary prayer meeting at which time the best missionary information at the command of the leaders will be given to the congregation, and all hearts unite in prayer to God for his blessings upon the work, the gifts rendered and the church

which gives. We also urge the pastors in their monthly visits to devote some portion of their service to this subject, thus keeping the great matter constantly before their people, and if possible take a collection for missions every month. We commend the use of the Foreign Mission Journal and the inexpensive tracts published by the Foreign Mission Board, of Richmond, Va., to all who desire to keep well informed on the subject, but we respectfully suggest that it is the duty of every Baptist to keep just as well informed on the work of missions as his circumstances will permit.

J. W. Willis,
J. E. Smith,
W. M. Slaton,
Committee.

On a motion the reports were adopted, after being discussed by Brothers Roberts and Willis.

Moved that the Association adjourn to hear the temperance sermon. The same was very ably preached by Rev. W. W. Wester; text, Hab., 2d chapter and 16th verse.

Adjourned for dinner until 1:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, and prayer by Rev. John W. Stewart. The subject of missions was further discussed by Bro. Stewart.

Moved that Bro. Stewart be given the hour of 3 o'clock p. m. to address this body on the subject of the Baptist Orphanage of Alabama,

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Tempetance, report, That it is evident that the Baptists of this Association are gaining more and more correct views in regard to temperance and are becoming more and more positive advocates of the only true temperance, viz: Total abstinence. This is evidenced by the fact that alcoholic stimulants have been totally banished from many homes, even as a medicine. It is now being appreciated that it is not beneficial as a medicine in the ways in which it has so often been used in the past, but that the tendency of its use in the family in such ways is harmful in the extreme. This is also most efficiently and impress-

ively evidenced by the fact that so many of our churches are now using unfermented wine at the Communion service; and in view of the fact that others desire to do so, your Committee desires to state that unfermented wine can be obtained at the drug stores in Gadsden, or of a number of persons in the county, who have put up and keep on hand unfermented wine.

It is a matter of congratulation that so many of our ministers and laymen have labored so earnestly and industriously in temperance work during the past year, and are even better prepared to continue this work in the future.

D. P. Goodhue,
W. M Shaw,
S. S. Gwin,
Committee.

The above report was adopted without discussion.

REPORT ON TIME, PLACE AND NOMINATIONS.

Time commencing Wednesday before the 3d Sunday in October, 1898.

Place, Bristoe's Creek.

Introductory sermon, Rev. J. W. Willis; Alternate, Rev. W. W. Wester.

Temperance sermon, Rev. W. Y. Adams; Alternate, Rev. J. W. Heaton.

Missionary sermon, Rev. J. E. Smith; Alternate, Rev. J. R. Trotter.

Respectfully submitted,
T. L. Swanson,
J. W. Gilliland,
J. J. Frix,
Committee.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on State Missions, beg leave to bring before this body the State Mission work.

We feel that the cause of missions has been advanced by the

efforts put forth by our worthy Secretary and the several evangelists working with him.

Churches are contributing this year that heretofore have given nothing, hence we wish to emphasize the educational feature of the Board along the line of missions. Let us heartily co-operate with the State Mission Board. Let us respond in a substantial way to the wants of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Y. Adams,
G. E. Jones,
J. W. Gilliland,
Committee.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to submit, That on examination and comparison of the rolls of membership of eleven schools which reported at the last session of this body, and again yesterday, shows an increase of two officers and teachers and forty pupils.

From the best source of information at our command, we find that, while the schools have not grown very much numerically, there has been a manifestation of deeper interest in the work than ever before, especially among our young people. We believe that our older church members should set an example to the younger ones in this as in all good works, but we find the actual conditions to be a reversal of this and the young people leading in the Sunday School work. We emphasize this fact with the hope of arousing our older ones to a deeper sense of their duty and the importance of the Sunday School in the work of saving souls. We recommend and urge upon the churches composing this body the necessity of embodying in their associational letters a detailed and complete report of their Sunday Schools just as they do the Church letter itself.

We find that of the twenty-two churches reporting at this session, only twelve gave anything like a detailed statement of the work of their schools. The other ten barely mentioning the fact that their Sunday Schools were in existence. If this Association is alive to the importance of this work as it should be, it will keep a closer account of it in the future than in the past.

J. T. Campbell,
A. H. Barnes,
T. L. Swanson,
Committee.

After a motion the report was adopted, after discussion by Bro. Willis.

Motion to continue the subject of Sunday Schools until tomorrow 9:30 a. m.

The oral report of Rev. J. R. Trotter on Associational Missions was received, and after being discussed by the following brethren, J. W. Willis, B. F. Smith, W. W. Wester, W. T. Murphree, J. R. Trotter, D. P. Goodhue, W. Y. Adams, G. E. Jones, Brothers Boozier and Miller, the same was adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Rev. J. W. Willis:

Resolved, That our Executive Committee co-operate with the destitute churches of the Association in sustaining pastors, and that the committee be authorized to call upon the churches to take collections for the support of this work.

Brother Stewart made a very impressive plea in favor of the Orphanage, after which a public collection was made, amounting to $12.89.

Adjourned until 9:30 tomorrow morning.

THIRD DAY.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator by reading the 28th division of Psalms and prayer by Rev. J. R. Trotter.

Read and adopted the minutes of previous day.

Moved that a committee be appointed on Orphans' Home. The following were appointed: Geo. D. Motley, T. J. Wofford and S. G. Gillum. Moved that W. T. Gay be added to the committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance report cash vouchers for Missions, $149.26; Minutes, $16.92; Ministerial Education, $1.25. Total, $167.43.

J. A. McDaniel,
G. T. Fox,
J. P. Maise,
Committee.

Took up the subject of Sunday Schools. It was further discussed by Rev. J. E. Smith, G. E Jones, J. R. Trotter, J. W. Willis and D. P. Goodhue.

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

We, your Committee on Obituaries, beg leave to make the following report:

We are glad to report that God has so wonderfully blessed us as to preserve the lives of all of our ministers and deacons through the past year; but we find he has removed from Union No. 1 our beloved Sister, Mary Coats, who was in the organization of the above church in the year 1843. She departed this life September 1897. She was a faithful and earnest worker for our Master in that church for 54 years, and is also the last one that was in the constitution of Union Church No. 1.

Respectfully submitted,
O. Q. Norton,
J. W. Heaton,
W. M. Shaw,
Committee.

Motion adopted without discussion.

Committee on Digest of Letters and State of Churches made report, but was returned to committee to be completed, and was adopted without discussion.

Motion of W. W. Wester that a committee of three be appointed to revise our articles of faith and report at next meeting The following were appointed: Rev. W. W. Wester, J. R. Trotter and Joe L. Jones.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

RECEIPTS.

Received from Finance Committee for State Missions	$21 50
For Home Missions	19 75
For Foreign Missions	22 25
For General Missions	25 91
For Ministerial Education	1 25
For Minutes	16 92
Gadsden Church for Minutes	2 00
Gadsden Church for Ministerial Education	1 00
R. W. Brock, collections for Missions	12 55
Collection, Orphans' Home	12 89
Total Receipts	$136 02

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid H. W. Roberts for A. E. Burns, Missions, etc.	$90 66
Paid R. W. Brock, Minutes and Clerk Hire	18 92
Paid Rev. J. W. Stewart, Orphans' Home	12 89
Paid State Board of Missions	13 55
Total Disbursements	$136 02

W. T. Murphree,
Treasurer Etowah Association.

The following named brethren volunteered to go to the Baptist State Convention: Bros. J. R. Trotter, D. P. Goodhue, Joe L. Jones, W. L. Culbertson and S. D. Monroe.

Appointed: Rev. J. W. Willis to Southern Baptist Convention; also W. L. Culbertson.

Resolved, That the delegates and visitors having been most cordially entertained by the citizens of this community, wish to give this expression to our grateful appreciation of their hospitality.

Moved that Bro. S. D. Monroe have the preference of printing the Minutes.

Moved that the clerk retain $5.00 for his services and expend the remainder for minutes.

Motion to divide the collections today equally between the four boards to wit: Foreign, State and Home Missions and Ministerial Education.

Motion to change the time of next meeting from Friday before the 2d Sunday in October to Wednesday, before the 4th Sunday in October, 1898.

Moved that we have a recess of 20 minutes for missionary sermon.

After assembling together Rev. J. W. Willis preached an able sermon on the subject of missions. At the close of sermon a public collection was taken amounting $12.55, which was turned over to Clerk to be sent to the Treasurer.

Adjourned.

Rev. W. L. Culbertson, Moderator.

R. W. Brock, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

The name of this Association shall be "The Etowah Baptist Association."

The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall perform such duties and perform them in such a manner as is ordinarily required of such officers. They shall be elected at or near the opening of each annual session of the body.

The membership of the Association shall be such churches as shall see fit and be permitted to represent themselves in its session by delegates.

Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for every twenty-five members, or fractional part thereof, but each church shall be entitled to at least two delegates.

The object of this Association shall be the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom not only within its own bounds, but throughout the world. It shall aid and encourage, by means of its influence, those grand institutions and agencies which, in the providence of God, have been established by the wise and good among our brethren for the spread of the Gospel throughout the world for the distribution of the Bible among those destitute of it, for the education of young men for the work of the ministry, as well as for the cause of education generally, for the promotion of the Sunday School cause, the cause of temperance, etc.

The Association shall employ such means and adopt such measures as shall seem best calculated to cultivate Christian unity and Fellowship among the brethren within its bounds, to incite the brethren to love and good work, to stir up the pure minds of the brethren by way of remembrance, to secure individual advancement in the divine life, in every way as individuals, to illustrate to the world the reality of the religion of Jesus Christ.

BY-LAWS.

1. Preparatory to the organization of the Association an introductory sermon shall be preached by a member appointed at the previous meeting, and another shall be named at the same time to perform the duty in case of the failure of the first.
2. The service being performed, the Moderator, or if he be absent, the oldest minister present shall open the Association with prayer.
3. He shall call for letters from the churches, when the delegates shall present them and take their seats in order.
4. When the Association is regularly organized, as prescribed by the Constitution, the correspondence from other Associations shall be called for, the letters read and the messengers received by the right of fellowship from the moderator. The messengers shall be invited to seats in the Association and accorded the privilege of speaking on any subject before the body, but not of voting on any. Other brethren may be invited to seats with the same privilege and prohibition.
5. Subjects not named in the last minutes may, at the discretion of the Association, be taken up at any time when there is no business before the body.
6. Any subjects not contained in minutes must be regularly brought before the body by motion which shall be seconded before it can be taken up After this, it shall be considered as property at the disposal of the Association, unless it be withdrawn by the mover.
7. No one shall speak oftener than three times on the same subject, unless permitted by the Association. The speaker shall always rise to his feet and address the Moderater.
8. Silence and decorum shall be observed by every member of the association while the body is in session, and more especially in the time of debate. All personal reflections and remarks tending to wound the feelings of the brethren shall be strictly avoided.
9. No member of the association shall leave the house while the association is in session without permission from the Moderator.
10. In order to expedite business, committees shall be appointed at the discretion of the association, who shall be named by the Moderater.
11. The meeting of the association shall, on each day of session, be opened and closed with prayer.
12. The minutes of each day shall be read at its beginning and close, of business, after prayer, each succeeding, when names of the delegates shall be called. And the whole of the minutes of the session shall be read at its close and signed by the Moderater and Clerk.
13. Any alteration of these By-Laws may be made at any meeting of the Associaton by two thirds of the members present.

RULES OF ORDER.

The rules of order usually observed by deliberative bodies of this kind shall be observed by this association.

If any point of order be raised by any member of the body, it shall be decided by the Moderator, but appeal may be taken from his decision to the body. "Wells' Parliamentary Practice" shall be used as authority in regard to questions of order.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

There is one and but one God, who is a spirit, omnicent, omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, unchangeable, infinite in goodness and wisdom, of inviolable truth, perfectly just, of immaculate holiness, the creator of all things, the preserver of all, and the supreme ruler over all. The Godhead is a trinity—Father, Son and Holy Ghost—three persons in one divine essence.

The Son became incarnate, thus uniting in himself the divine and human natures that he might become the mediator between God and man; man's final judge, and by his life, death and resurrection, the Redeemer and Savior of his people.

The Holy Spirit is the sanctioner and comforter of God's people. He is, through the divine word, the author of the new spiritual life produced in man in his regeneration.

The Holy Scriptures were given by divine inspiration as a revelation of God's will to man concerning him, and constitute to him an infallible rule of faith and practice.

Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, were created holy, and for a time served the Creator acceptably, living innocently and happy in His favor, but Adam, having been placed under a covenant of works, violated it and brought the penalty of the violation upon himself and his descendants.

All men partaking of the consequences of the fall, are both totally depraved and guilty of actual transgression of God's laws.

No man can free himself from his native depravity, or from condemnation. No man can save himself. There is no way of salvation but by Jesus Christ.

The Christian Sabbath is the first day of the week, and should be kept holy and consecrated to the service and worship of God in obedience to the command, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," and in commemoration of the resurrection on that day of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The ordinances of the gospel are two—Baptism, and the Lord's supper. The great head of the church requires the perpetual observance of these ordinances by the church as such and under their authority.

Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water by one duly qualified and authorized to administer the rite. It is prerequisite to church membership.

A gospel church is a company of Baptised believers, organized under the laws of its Great Head for the advancement of God's kingdom in the world. The officers of the church are its pastors and deacons Each church is an independent body, subject only to the commands of its Great Head. The work required of the church is missionary in its character "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

The Holy Spirit continues the work of sanctification upon those whom he has regenerated to the end of life, and thus saves all who are regenerated from apostacy.

All who will be finally saved were chosen of God the father, before the foundation of the world, and gave to Jesus Christ in the covenant of grace; yet all who will be lost will have rejected a preferred salvation.

The bodies of all who die will be raised from the dead and reunited to their spirits for the judgment of the great day.

In the last day Jesus will come to judge the world, and having assembled all men before him, will pass sentence upon them according to their works.

Heaven is a place to which the righteous will be received and made perfectly happy in the presence and enjoyment of God forever.

Hell is a place into which the wicked shall be cast to suffer eternal punishment for their sins.

STATISTICS OF ETOWAH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.—1897.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Membership Last Reported	Incr'se by			Decr's by			Present Membership	SUNDAY SCHOOL			Preach'g Sab'h	Rep't Pr Mt'g	Rep'ts Revival
						Bapt'm	Letter	Resto'n	Letter	Exclu'n	Death		Officers and Teachers.	Pupils.	SUPT'S NAME AND P. O. ADDRESS.			
Antioch	St. Clair	N A Hood	M G Williams	Steeles Depot	71	5	1	0	2	0	0	75		60	w M Shaw, Steeles Depot	4th	1	
Attalla	Etowah	W L Culbertson	T L Swanson	Attalla	79	13	27	1	6	1	1	112	10	75	N N Vann, Attalla	2&4	1	1
Bethany	"	J E Smith	R w Brock	Hill	91	9	5	6	16	0	0	89	6	50	R w Brock, Hill	4th	1	1
Bristoe's Creek	"	I A May	R E Borroughs	Aurora	72	15	3	2	4	0	0	88	....	..	J S Brasseal, Aurora	4th	..	1
Cave Springs	"	J S Horton	C w Butler	Mountainboro	83	0	4	0	5	0	0	82	...	..		2d	..	..
Center	"	B F Smith	w L Brown	Attalla	29	6	1	0	5	1	1	89	....	..		3d	..	..
East Gadsden	"	W Y Adams	I N Jelks	E Gadsden	83	1	2	0	2	0	2	82	....	..		3d	1	1
Fairview	"	G E Jones	J P Maise	Brice	98	9	7	11	2	5	1	118	....	..		1st	..	..
Gadsden	"	J w Willis	G S Vann	Gadsden	292	0	15	0	14	0	3	290	17	140	A E Goodhue, Gadsden	....	..	..
Greenwood	"	G E Jones	A B Hawkins	Keener	53	1	3	0	3	1	0	53	...	..		4th	1	..
Liberty Coosa	"	W Y Adams	D D Nabors	Hoke's Bluff	192	1	11	0	17	1	1	185	8	110	A H Barnes, Hokes' Bluff	4th	1	1
Macedonia	"	W W Wester	w R League		46	2	0	0	0	0	0	48	....	..		4th	..	..
Mt. Ararat	"	J C Holden	Geo Vaughn	Glencoe	40	2	2	0	2	0	0	42	....	..		4th	..	..
Mt. Carmel	"	W L Culbertson	J L Jones	Gadsden	240	24	27	1	27	5	3	257	7	66	J F Pittman, Gadsden	1&3	1	1
New Harmony	"	B F Smith	w H Tucker	Crudup	60	6	1	1	3	1	2	62	..	..		2d	..	..
Pilgrim's Rest	"	J E Smith	W P Archer	Markton	183	30	18	3	0	0	0	234	..	..		3d	..	..
Pleasant Hill	"																	
Pleasant Valley	"	W W wester	S G Gillum	Attalla	40	0	1	0	3	0	1	37	..	..		2d	..	..
Union No. 1	"	J A May	S P Guest	Seaborn	133	11	11	0	4	1	0	150	6	50	O Q Norton, Seaborn	3d	1	1
Union No. 2	"	G W Lovell	w A Culbertson	Gallant	56	5	4	0	1	0	1	65	..	..		1st	..	..
Walnut Grove	"	J A Glenn	J H Ellison	walnut Grove	117	0	6	0	8	0	0	113	7	101	J T Campbell, walnut Grove	4th	1	1
White's Chapel	"	A J West	T P west	Luke	86	1	0	0	12	0	2	73	..	..		4th	..	..
White Springs	"	J R Trotter	J A McDaniel	Etowahton	94	1	5	2	5	1	0	97	7	50	J H Bowman, Etowahton	4th	..	..
Dwight	"	No Pastor	—Stovall	Ala. City	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	..		....	..	..

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ETOWAH ASSOCIATION FOR 1897.

CHURCH.	MISSIONS.						HOME EXPENSES.					Value of Property
	HOME		STATE		FOREIGN		Minutes	Pastor's Salary.	Repairs & Fuel	Sunday School	Total	
	Cash	Vouch'r	Cash	Vouch'r	Cash	Vouch'r						
Antioch					1 00		1 00				$2 00	$ 400 00
Attalla	$10 00		5 42	4 58	10 00			228 55	$ 6 40			1500 00
Bethany					2 00	2 40	1 00	50 00		$ 1 75		1000 00
Bristoe's Creek	1 09		1 00			3 50	1 00					300 00
Cave Springs						2 26	50					200 00
Center				1 75			50					500 00
East Gadsden		3 10					75	60 00				600 00
Fairview					1 75		65					500 00
Gadsden	26 00		6 88	5 00	26 25		2 00			68 64		7000 00
Greenwood					1 00		85	30 00				500 00
Liberty Coosa		7 40		1247		7 50	1 25	100 00	200 00	12 00		1200 00
Macedonia						4 50	1 00					400 00
Mt. Carmel			5 34			3 83	1 00	100 00	5 16			1200 00
Mt. Ararat			1 50				75	30 00		4 00		200 00
New Harmony			2 50				1 00	40 00				250 00
Rilgrim's Rest			7 94			1 62	1 00					350 00
Pleasant Hill												
Pleasant Valley					3 00		50					250 00
Union No. 1				6 58		2 75	1 45	126 40	290 00	4 00		600 00
Union No. 2	1 25		1 25		1 25	3 72	1 00	40 00	36 25			300 00
Walnut Grove		7 00			5	7 12	1 00		50 00			1500 00
White's Chapel			1 45				40					300 00
White Springs	1 00				50		50					400 00
Dwight												

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